

## **Together on the Pathway to Reconciliation**

Delegation Spokesperson: Grace Elliott – Nielsen Ph.D. OBC

Video Presentation

Q and A

Reconciliation must inspire Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share.

It will take many heads, hands, and hearts, working together at all levels of society to maintain momentum in the years ahead. It will also take sustained political will.

Reconciliation begins with lifting up the Children of our Nations and looking 7 generations beyond today.

Tillicum Lelum invites Council and the citizens of Nanaimo you represent to join with us on that Pathway to Reconciliation.

### **Reconciliation Facts**

#### **Systemic Racism**

#### **“The burden of addressing Racism needs to come off of the shoulders of Indigenous Peoples”**

Grace Elliott-Nielsen Ph.D. OBC, Executive Director of Tillicum Lelum and Matriarch of the Stz’uminus First Nation recognized a desperate need for an Indigenous Health Centre project early on during her decades of visionary community practice.

She did so in response to the disturbing systemic Racism that existed in 1993 and continues to exist some 30 years later still as documented by Mary Turpel-Lafond’s report into anti-Indigenous discrimination in British Columbia’s health-care system.

We have a major problem with Indigenous-specific racism and prejudice in B.C. health care," Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond said in a new report released today.”

Tillicum Lelum’s Health Centre represented the **“creation of the very first dedicated Aboriginal Health Clinic in British Columbia** and put the Nanaimo community at the forefront of innovation in the delivery of Aboriginal Health and Social Services in Canada.

“Aboriginal people from near and far have come to Tillicum Lelum Health Centre for healing, training and education having found a place where they can tap into a wide variety of programs that meet their physical mental, emotional and spiritual needs in a culturally safe manner.” Government of British Columbia OBC Ceremony Profile 2000)

## Nanaimo's Urban Indigenous Residents

- In 2016, almost 900,000 Indigenous people lived in urban areas (towns and cities with a population of 30,000 or more), accounting for more than half of Indigenous people in Canada. In 2022 the number of Indigenous people living in urban areas has increased to 80%.
- Almost exactly one-third of those surveyed in Nanaimo's 2020 PIT Count identified themselves as First Nations, Métis or having Indigenous Ancestry, **a notable increase from the 2016 survey figure of 24%.**
- Jesse Thistle, a Métis-Cree author and advocate for the homeless, argues that systems of colonization and racism are at the root of the housing disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in Canada.
- Indigenous young people are the fastest growing population of the youth segment in Canada. Potential of the current and next generations of Indigenous young people to contribute to the overall social and economic wellbeing of Nanaimo as a community promises a brighter future for everyone.